

11 March 2011

Ms. Demaree Collier
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. EPA, Superfund Division
77 West Jackson Boulevard, SR-6J
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Subject: Response to Letter Received 25 February 2011 Regarding the Draft Biological Assessment Report of the Little Vermilion River Adjacent to Matthiessen and Hegeler Zinc Company Site, LaSalle, Illinois – Geosyntec Project Number CWR1710

Dear Ms. Collier:

Geosyntec Consultants, on behalf of Carus Corporation, is preparing a response to the letters regarding the “Draft Biological Assessment Report of the Little Vermilion River Adjacent to the Matthiessen and Hegeler Zinc Company Site in LaSalle, Illinois” (BAR) received from USEPA on 21 December 2010 and 25 February 2011. The letters from USEPA require the BAR to be revised in accordance with the attached comments, and require the addition of sediment toxicity testing.

In accordance with the 21 December 2010 comments as modified by the 25 February comments, and in accordance with our follow-up discussions, the BAR will be modified to retain the mIBI discussions, with the addition of language discussing the sampling methods and the uncertainty resulting from those sampling methods not being consistent with IEPA's 2007 protocol. Submittal of the revised BAR is tentatively scheduled for 29 April 2011.

Geosyntec will prepare a Work Plan detailing the sediment toxicity testing to be conducted to augment the existing chemical and biological characterization of the Little Vermilion River. In preparing that Work Plan, Geosyntec will meet for project scoping with representatives of USEPA and your contractor, SulTRAC, to facilitate coordination of the project procedures and schedule. We will contact your team next week to schedule the scoping meeting. Geosyntec will develop a project schedule for the submittal of the Work Plan, the implementation of the sampling and toxicity testing, and submittal of the summary report of that toxicity testing. That schedule will be provided as soon as possible following the scoping meeting.

Ms. Demaree Collier
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
11 March 2011
Page 2

Geosyntec will continue to coordinate with you regarding the schedule for the completion of the Remedial Investigation Final Report, which is dependent upon the completion of the revised BAR and the completion of the sediment toxicity testing.

Please contact us with any questions you have regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Berggreen, P.G.
Senior Consultant



Nandra D. Weeks, P.E.
Principal

Cc: John Bortak, Carus Corporation
Thomas Dimond, Ice Miller